(d) whether the Director (Finance) though a non-technical incumbent, acts as Chairman-cum-Managing Director in his absence contrary to the established practice;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to constitute an inquiry to look into the whole affairs of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation; and

(f) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) There have been one Managing Director and six Chairman & Managing Directors in Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation since its inception. Out of these seven, two left on superannuation, one on completion of his tenure and four resigned. The post of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) has been vacant and pending appointment of CMD, the Director (Finance) is acting as CMD.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The losses of HFC are mainly due to low capacity utilisation of its plants resulting from unproven technology and equipment, power and labour problems. A high powered Committee constituted by Govt. in 1986 went into the working of HFC and came to the same conclusion. Since the losses are not on account of any irregularity in the plants, it is not proposed to hold an enquiry.

[*English*]

Availability of Cement

3813. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding shortage of general portland cement in the market due to under-utilisation of production capacities by the cement factories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of increase in the production of various types of cement during last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the availability of general portland cement to the public in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Government has not received any complaints regarding shortage of general portland cement in the market due to under-utilisation of production capacity by the factories. Average capacity utilisation in the cement industry as a whole was as high as 82% of installed capacity in 1990-91. However, there have been instances of shortage of cement in the deficit regions, mainly on account of transportation bottlenecks and local constraints.

(c) Information regarding production of different varieties of cement and percentage increase in production during 1988 to 1990 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Following are some of the important steps taken by the Government to increase availability of general portland cement to the public in the market:—

(i) Cement Industry has been delicensed i.e. no licence is required for setting up a new unit or for substantial expansion.

(ii) Government is closely monitoring the availability of coal, railway wagons and other infrastructural support to the Cement Industry and remedial action is taken wherever necessary.

(iii) In order to minimise impact on regional imbalances, Railways have been requested to move cement from surplus areas to deficit areas on a regular basis.

STATEMENT

Varietywise production and Percentage of growth in production during 1988 to 1990

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	*Production of*					*Percentage variation in production over previous year*				
	Ordinary Portland Cement	*Portland Pozzolana Cement*	*Portland Blast furnace Cement*	*Special varieties of Cement*	*Total*	*Ordinary Portland Cement*	*Portland Pozzolana Cement*	*Portland Blast furnace Cement*	*Special varieties of Cement*	*Total*
1988 . . .	266.55	88.95	48.89	2.91	407.30	24.08	(—)17.6	9.79	14.57	10.10
1989 . . .	299.42	74.67	43.67	3.31	421.07	12.33	(—)16.05	(—)10.67	13.74	3.38
1990 . . .	315.88	84.69	44.38	3.98	448.93	5.50	13.42	1.63	20.24	6.62